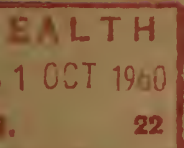


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BRIDGNORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1959.





PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	-	Margaret H. F. Turnbull, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	-	D. A. Pamphilon, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	-	J. Stocker, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

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BRIDGNORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Westgate,  
Bridgnorth.

October, 1960.

To the Chairman and Councillors,  
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for 1959, which follows the same general pattern as in previous years.

Annual Reports can be rather dreary documents, filled with tedious tables, stale statistics and grotesque graphs. While some of these must of necessity be included, every effort is made to sugar the pill and produce a Report which is as 'readable' as possible.

1. The health statistics as detailed in Section A are quite satisfactory. The Birth-Rate is almost the same as last year's, and similar to the average for the whole country; the Death-Rate has varied little during the last 10 years, and is again just below the average for England and Wales; the Still-Birth Rate shows a pleasing drop from the rather high figure for 1958, and this year is well below the average.

The Rate of which we can be proudest is that for Infant Mortality, (8.6 per 1,000 live births) which is the lowest by far during the 10 years for which figures are available, and is well below the average for England and Wales of 22.0. While this looks very fine on paper, too much significance should not be attached to it, however. Considerable fluctuations in this Rate are liable to occur from year to year, which would not be so marked in a more populous area. Suffice it to say that we were fortunate to lose only two infants in 1959 - the lowest number for 10 years.

2. The District was fairly free of the notifiable infectious diseases, apart from measles which was very prevalent among the child population during the 2nd and 4th quarters of 1959.

3. The Low Level Water Supply Scheme was approaching completion at the close of the year, the final contract being due to commence early in 1960.

Negotiations were continued in connection with the Joint High Level Scheme. Mains water is very much needed in the areas which it will serve.

4. The advent of piped water-supplies to areas without adequate sewerage and sewage-disposal facilities brings fresh problems in its wake.

The worst of these nuisances exist at Alveley, and Stottesdon and the Council's efforts to remedy them continued during the year.

A Public Enquiry was held in connection with the proposed site for the Alveley disposal scheme, but the Minister later intimated that he wished the Council to give consideration to alternative sites. Work on the Eardington Scheme was completed, but the response of property-owners so far has been disappointing.

Only five properties, apart from the Council houses, were connected to the sewers by the end of the year.

Little progress was achieved with the Stottesdon scheme which did not get beyond the paper stage. It seemed likely that local response would be poor in this case too, owing to financial considerations.

The Council gave consideration to the provision of a sewerage scheme for Ackleton, and the Consulting Engineers were requested to prepare a suitable scheme.

The Minister's approval was sought for the extension to the existing Worfield scheme which will allow almost all the properties in the village to be connected to the sewers.

5. The acquisition of land for refuse-tipping continued to be a problem, and the search continued during the year. Confirmation of the Compulsory Purchase Order for a site at Alveley was received, which will ease matters in that area, and it was hoped that negotiations for the use of an old mine-shaft at Kinlet would be concluded satisfactorily.

6. The Council's house-building programme progressed well. 24 houses, including 16 bungalows for old people, were completed in the course of the year. It was expected that another 8 houses and 4 bungalows would be constructed at Claverley and further building is also contemplated at Highley and Alveley.

Very little progress was made with slum-clearance, slightly less than in 1958. Until the Council decides that a certain proportion of houses built each year should be earmarked for this purpose, slum-clearance progress will be negligible. The suggestion is again made that the Council might consider purchasing and converting suitable dwellings to rehouse persons who, for various reasons, would not be suitable tenants of new property.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation of the valued assistance given to me in the preparation of this Report by the Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. D. A. Pamphilon (who was entirely responsible for compiling Sections C, D. and E), and by the Additional Public Health Inspector, Mr. J. Stocker.

The continued co-operation and help afforded to me throughout the year by the Inspectors, and by our Clerical Assistant, is also gratefully acknowledged.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Margaret H. F. Turnbull,

Medical Officer of Health.



SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in acres.	100,897
Estimated Population (Mid - 1959).	17,190
Number of Inhabited Houses (at 31:3:60).	4,177
Rateable Value of the District (at 31:3:60).	£138,934
Estimated Product of ld. Rate (at 31:3:60).	£547

VITAL STATISTICS.

1. POPULATION.

The estimated population of the area at mid - 1959 was 17,190 - an increase of 110 on the corresponding estimate for 1958.

The natural increase in population for the year, i.e. the difference between the number of deaths and the number of live births, was 111.

Estimated Mid-Year Population - 1950-1959.

Year	Mid-Year Population	Natural Increase
1950	16,580	92
1951	16,590	83
1952	16,510	89
1953	16,540	104
1954	16,180	108
1955	16,100	108
1956	17,010	69
1957	16,720	107
1958	17,080	100
1959	17,190	111

2. BIRTHS.

(a) Live Births.

LIVE BIRTHS 1959.

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total Live Births
Male	100	3	103
Female	126	4	130
Total	226	7	233
Rate per 1,000 of population	13.1	0.4	13.6

Crude Birth Rate, per 1,000 of population	- 13.6
Standardised Birth Rate, per 1,000 of population	- 16.7
Birth Rate for England and Wales, 1959	- 16.5

There were 233 live births during the year, four more than in 1958. Of these, 7 were illegitimate (3% of the total).

The 'Crude' Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population was 13.6, and the Standardised Birth-Rate (which is comparable with the corresponding rate for other areas) was 16.7.

LIVE BIRTHS 1950-1959.

Year	No. of live births	No. of illegitimate live births	Standardised Birth-Rate per 1,000 of population
1950	210	10	14.2
1951	220	2	18.4
1952	227	*	19.0
1953	234	10	19.8
1954	229	6	17.6
1955	232	10	17.9
1956	206	4	15.0
1957	226	14	16.6
1958	229	9	16.5
1959	233	7	16.7

\* Figure not available.

(b) Still Births.

STILL BIRTHS 1959.

Male	2
Female	-
Total	2

Still Birth Rate, per 1,000 total births	- 8.5
Still Birth Rate, England and Wales, 1959	- 20.7

There were 2 still births during the year as compared with 8 in 1958.

The Still Birth Rate, per 1,000 total births, (i.e. live births and still births combined) was therefore, 8.5, the lowest during the ten years for which records are available. It is well below the corresponding rate for England and Wales, for 1959, which was 20.7.

STILL BIRTHS 1950-1959.

Year	No. of live births	No. of still births	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births
1950	210	2	9.4
1951	220	3	13.0
1952	227	4	17.3
1953	234	4	16.7
1954	229	4	17.2
1955	232	4	16.9
1956	206	4	19.0
1957	226	4	17.4
1958	229	8	33.8
1959	233	2	8.5

3. DEATHS.

Male	74
Female	48
Total	122

Crude Death Rate, per 1,000 of population	- 7.1
Standardised Death Rate, per 1,000 of population	- 9.1
Death Rate for England and Wales, 1959	- 11.6

122 inhabitants of the District died during 1959, 7 fewer than in 1958.

The 'Crude' Death Rate was, therefore, 7.1 per 1,000 of the population and the Standardised Death Rate, which allows for comparison with similarly standardised rates for other areas, was 9.1. This is lower than the average death rate for the year in England and Wales which was 11.6 per 1,000 of the population.

#### DEATHS 1950-1959

Year	No. of deaths	Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 of population
1950	118	8.5
1951	137	9.3
1952	138	9.7
1953	130	9.3
1954	121	8.9
1955	124	9.1
1956	137	10.4
1957	119	9.1
1958	129	9.7
1959	122	9.1

The Registrar-General's annual return gives the causes of death in the area during 1959 as follows:-

#### CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1959.

	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.. ..	1	-	1
2. Tuberculosis, other .. ..	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease .. ..	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria . .. .	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough .. ..	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections .. ..	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis .. ..	-	-	-
8. Measles .. ..	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	-	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. ..	1	1	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	-	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .. ..	-	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. ..	-	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	13	1	14
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. ..	-	1	1
16. Diabetes .. ..	1	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	8	11	19
18. Coronary disease, angina .. ..	14	2	16
19. Hypertension with heart disease. ..	2	-	2
20. Other heart diseases . .. .	7	12	19
21. Other circulatory diseases .. ..	-	4	4
22. Influenza .. ..	-	2	2
23. Pneumonia .. ..	7	1	8
24. Bronchitis . .. .	5	3	8
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	3	-	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. ..	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis .. ..	1	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .. ..	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion. ..	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations .. ..	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	6	6	12
33. Motor Vehicle accidents .. ..	2	-	2
34. All other accidents .. ..	2	-	2
35. Suicide .. ..	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war.. ..	-	-	-
All causes.. ..	<u>74</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>122</u>



## Deaths Due to Malignant Disease and Circulatory Conditions.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total	% of total No. of deaths
Malignant disease (all types)	14	6	20	16.4
Diseases of Heart and Circulation	31	29	60	49.2

Malignant disease (all types included) caused 20 deaths as compared with 16 in 1958. None was due to lung cancer.

Conditions of the heart and circulatory system accounted for fewer deaths than in 1958 - 60 as compared with 71.

### 4. INFANT MORTALITY.

#### Deaths of Infants Under 1 Year of Age, 1959.

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	2	-	2
Female	-	-	-
Total	2	-	2

Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births - 8.6

Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births (England and Wales 1959) - 22.0

2 infants under the age of 12 months died during 1959, 5 fewer than in the preceding year. One of the deaths occurred during the first week of life, the other after the first month.

The Infant Mortality Rate for the year was 8.6 per 1,000 live births. This is a pleasing drop from the 30.6 which fell to be recorded for 1958, and is well below the average rate for England and Wales of 22.0 per 1,000 live births.

#### INFANT MORTALITY 1950-1959.

(1) Year	(2) No. of Live Births	(3) No. of Infant Deaths		(4) Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	(5) Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births
		Under 1 year	Under 4 wks.		
1950	210	8	7	38.1	33.3
1951	220	3	*	13.6	*
1952	227	7	*	30.8	*
1953	234	6	4	25.5	17.1
1954	229	3	2	13.1	8.7
1955	232	4	2	17.2	8.6
1956	206	7	5	34.0	24.3
1957	226	6	6	26.5	26.5
1958	229	7	2	30.6	8.7
1959	233	2	1	8.6	4.3

\* Figures not available.

### 5. MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were again no deaths related to pregnancy or childbirth in 1959, this being the fifth successive year with no maternal mortality. Since 1950, there have only been two maternal deaths, one in 1953, and one in 1954.

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

No material changes in the provision of Health Services in the area took place during 1959. Much that appears in this section has therefore been recorded in previous Annual Reports, but is included again for the sake of completeness.

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are listed at the commencement of the Report. There were no staff changes during the year.

The two Public Health Inspectors are full-time Officers, and the Medical Officer of Health devotes 2/11ths of her time to Bridgnorth R.D.C., 2/11ths to Wenlock Corporation, 1/11th to Bridgnorth Corporation, and 6/11ths to Salop County Council.

### HOSPITAL AND SPECIALIST SERVICES.

The provision of hospital accommodation and specialist services in this area is the responsibility of Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. The general hospitals most easily accessible to those living in the Rural District are those at Bridgnorth, Kidderminster, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury.

Cases of Infectious Disease requiring isolation and hospital treatment are admitted to the Borough Hospital, Wolverhampton, or to Copthorne Hospital, Shrewsbury.

Patients with Tuberculosis receive treatment at Shirlett Sanatorium or Cross Houses Hospital, or at Sanatoria at Knightwick or Malvern.

The chronic sick requiring hospital treatment are usually admitted to Shifnal Hospital, or to New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton.

### GENERAL MEDICAL, DENTAL, PHARMACEUTICAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY OPHTHALMIC SERVICES.

The Authority responsible for the administration of these services in the area is Salop Executive Council.

### LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES.

Salop County Council, as Local Health Authority, is responsible for the provision and administration of the following services:-

- Health Centres (None in this area).
- Care of mothers and young children.
- Domiciliary Midwifery.
- Health Visiting.
- Home Nursing.
- Vaccination and Immunisation.
- Ambulance Services.
- Prevention of illness, care and after-care.
- Domestic Help Service.

#### (a) Maternal and Child Welfare.

The Child Welfare Clinic at Highley retained its popularity, and attendances were very satisfactory throughout the year. It is held in the Annexe to the Miners' Welfare Hall on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month, from 1.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Other clinics accessible to those in some parts of the Rural District are held at Cleobury Mortimer, Much Wenlock and Bridgnorth.



(b) Welfare Foods.

The National Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod-Liver oil, and Vitamin A and D tablets) are available at the Welfare Centres during Clinic hours, and at various conveniently situated distribution-points throughout the district.

(c) Health Visiting, Home Nursing, Domiciliary Midwifery.

One full-time Health Visitor serves a large part of the District adjacent to Bridgnorth, and Health Visiting in other parts of the area is undertaken by District-Nurse-Midwives in addition to their other duties.

Two District-Nurse-Midwives are stationed in the Rural District one at Highley, and one at Hilton. The rest of the District is served by Nurses based outside its area.

(d) Vaccination and Immunisation.

Under the County Council's Scheme, Vaccination against Small-pox and Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping-cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis may be carried out by arrangement with a general practitioner or at any Child Welfare Centre.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis for the eligible age-groups (6 months to 25 years) continued during 1959, by means of visits to schools and special day and evening sessions at clinics.

Third injections were introduced at the end of 1958 and most of the school children who had had two injections in the preceding few years received their third dose during 1959.

The 15 - 25 year age-group became eligible for vaccination at the end of 1958. The response was rather disappointing until the death of a popular young footballer from paralytic poliomyelitis at the end of March, 1959. This did more than any organised propaganda to bring home to these young people that they too could be the victims of such a tragedy, and that they should avail themselves of the protection offered. To cater for the sudden increased demand, evening sessions at clinics had to continue during the remainder of the year.

It was expected that during 1960 vaccination would become available for those up to the age of 40 years.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

In 1959, Vaccination against Tuberculosis was again offered to all 13-year-old children at schools in the District who were found to require this protection.

B.C.G. Vaccine is used for this purpose. This is prepared from a special type of the Tubercle Bacillus which will confer immunity to the disease, but is incapable of producing it.

(e) Ambulance Services.

The Central Ambulance Depot for the County is in Shrewsbury (Telephone No. Shrewsbury 6331) to which all requests for an ambulance should be made. Two ambulances and a car for sitting cases are stationed in Bridgnorth for use on local journeys.

(f) Domestic Help Service.

The service of a domestic help is available, in the words of the Act, for "any person who is ill, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age." Enquiries regarding this service are dealt with at the Domestic Help Office, Bridgnorth Welfare Centre (Telephone No. Bridgnorth 3078) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 2.15 and 4.30 p.m.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

#### COMPREHENSIVE SCHEMES.

##### JOINT HIGH LEVEL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME.

The above scheme is one which is to be entered into jointly by the Ludlow and Bridgnorth R.D.Cs. It is proposed that the water will be treated at headworks situated within the Ludlow Council's area and distributed by gravity to 15 parishes in the West of the district.

The Joint Committee met on several occasions during the year, but the scheme has not reached the enquiry stage. It is to be hoped that greater progress will be made in the future, as many parishes in the part of the district to be served have serious water supply problems.

##### LOW LEVEL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME.

The Low Level scheme supplying water to some 20 parishes in the district is now approaching completion, and work on the final contract is expected to commence early in 1960.

Work was completed on Stages 4 and 5, and satisfactory progress was made in regard to Stage 6.

The chlorinator houses at Trimpley and Lea Crossing were completed and work commenced on Romsley Reservoir.

##### PARISH REPORTS.

###### Alveley.

The poor water supplies in the Tuckhill and Six Ashes areas of the parish have now been vastly improved since the Low Level mains became available.

###### Claverley, Worfield and Rudge.

These parishes are within the Statutory area of supply of the Wolverhampton Water Undertaking, and the main centres of population are well served.

A report from the Wolverhampton Water Engineer shows that regular bacteriological sampling of the supply has proved it to be satisfactory.

Negotiations are still in progress with Wolverhampton Corporation with regard to a supply of water to the Beobridge, Gatacre and Farmcote areas. Unfortunately these parts are only sparsely populated, and despite the pressing need for water there, it is going to prove difficult to supply this at anything like an economic cost.

The Wootton area of Claverley will shortly be afforded a water supply when the Low Level main is extended.

###### Middleton Scriven.

As a result of an investigation into a case of enteric illness in the village, the private water supply was sampled and submitted for analysis. The water was shown to be polluted and unfit for drinking, and persons using the water were accordingly advised to boil it before use. These boiling notices have not been withdrawn, and as the Council's water-main is now available to these properties, some enforcement action would appear to be called for in the near future if more advantage is not taken of the facilities provided.



Astley Abbotts.

Representations were made to the Council by the Bridgnorth Branch of the National Farmers' Union regarding the water supply in the Linley and Nordley areas of the parish.

The branch-main already scheduled for this area had, previous to these representations, been given priority, and it is hoped that work will commence on this contract early in 1960.

Kinlet.

Representations were received from the Parish Council regarding an acute shortage of water in the Button Bridge area, after the prolonged drought of the summer.

This area will also be dealt with under the branch-mains contract, due to commence early in 1960.

Premises Receiving Water from Public Piped Supplies  
at 31st March, 1960.

		<u>No. of Premises.</u>	
		<u>Direct Supply</u>	<u>Standpipe</u>
Alveley		182	9
Astley Abbotts		48	-
Billingsley		23	-
Chelmarsh		64	-
Chetton		11	-
Claverley		256	-
Deuxhill		4	-
Eardington		22	-
Glazeley		13	-
Highley		565	-
Kinlet		79	-
Middleton Scriven		5	-
Morville		18	-
Neen Savage		44	-
Romsley		6	-
Sidbury		1	-
Stottesdon		77	-
Tasley		55	-
	Civilian	209	-
Worfield	R.A.F. Houses	180	-
	R.A.F. Camp	1	-
		<u>1,863</u>	<u>9</u>

PURITY OF SUPPLIES.

MAIN SUPPLIES.

All water now supplied to the district is received from the Birmingham and Wolverhampton Water Undertakings. The Council's Low Level Scheme is supplied from the Elan Aqueduct and is chlorinated at five chlorinator houses as it enters the mains for distribution.

Regular sampling of the water throughout the system is carried out to ensure that the chlorination has been effective and that no pollution has occurred in the course of distribution.

The samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Shrewsbury, for bacteriological analysis. A summary of the reports received during 1959 are as follows.

	<u>Public Mains</u>	<u>Elan Aqueduct</u>
Satisfactory	47	6
Unsatisfactory	6	5

The results shown overleaf indicate an overall improvement when compared with the results shown in the Annual Report for 1958.

Routine sampling has proved on one or two occasions during the year to be a valuable guide as to possible sources and causes of pollution.

It is also interesting to note that results of samples taken of water as it comes direct from the Elm Aqueduct and before treatment prove the necessity for chlorinating the water before it is distributed.

The Low Level System is totally enclosed from the open air except for one open reservoir at Chelmarsh. As sampling has at times shown this to be a possible source of pollution, the Council should give consideration to it being covered in the future.

#### PRIVATE SUPPLIES, WELLS AND SPRINGS ETC.

During the year 23 samples of water were taken from private supplies. The results of these samples were generally very poor and advice was given to the consumers on methods of improving the supplies, and treatment of the water before use.

It is generally found that private water supplies do not receive the attention and maintenance which is required to ensure a water supply which is at all times bacteriologically pure.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that among the problems on which the Council must now concentrate is that of providing adequate sewage-disposal facilities in communities where any density of houses exists. Water has been provided throughout almost all the Low Level areas of the district, and as a result, improved standards of housing and increased development may be expected to follow. It is, therefore, in these areas that sewage-disposal facilities must be first provided, and no doubt the Council should now give consideration to some form of programme with this in mind.

The comments previously made regarding the regular maintenance of private water supplies apply equally in the case of septic tanks. Too many people have the impression that once a septic tank is installed they can forget about it. This is not the case, for very often it is found that such septic tanks are not producing an effluent of sufficiently high standard, and this is left to pollute ditches and watercourses. The septic tank must never be considered 'out of sight, out of mind.'

#### PARISH REPORTS.

##### Alveley.

During the year, a Ministry Inspector held a Public Enquiry into the Council's application for a Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of an area of land on which to site a sewage disposal-works. The Minister later intimated that he wished the Council to give further consideration to alternative sites.

##### Claverley.

It would appear that the scheme provided for this village is now receiving approximately 50% of the estimated ultimate flows.

No survey has yet been carried out in order to ensure that all existing properties are connected. It is considered that such a survey should be carried out in the near future.

#### Eardington.

The sewage disposal-plant and sewers were completed during the year, but as yet, apart from the Council houses, only five other properties are using the system. This is a most disappointing response on the part of persons living in the village, and no doubt after due time has elapsed, the Council should consider a further survey of the village in order to ascertain where nuisances are still occurring.

#### Stottesdon.

No further progress can be reported with regard to the proposals for this village, though the Council have met the Parish Council on various occasions. Whether or not the scheme will now proceed, would appear to depend on economics and not on necessity. The serious nuisances existing in the village will have to be abated by action against individual owners, if not by a comprehensive scheme, in the near future.

#### Worfield.

A scheme for the extension of the existing sewerage system to the older part of the village was submitted to the Minister for his approval during the year.

This extension has been long overdue, and almost all the properties within the confines of the village will be served by it.

#### Ackleton.

Consideration was given by the Council to providing a sewerage scheme for this village, and the Council's consulting engineers were accordingly asked to draw up a suitable scheme.

#### Highley.

The greater proportion of this village is now sewered, but before any extension to the Rhea Hall Estate can be contemplated, Stage 3 of the Highley Sewerage Scheme must be completed. This will also allow the unsatisfactory works at Vicarage Lane to be abandoned.

The Minister's consent was given during the year for the Council to invite tenders for the necessary works.

#### REFUSE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The Council continued to collect refuse from all parishes by direct labour throughout the year. A weekly collection is made in the more densely populated areas, and a fortnightly collection in the outlying areas.

The service has continued to run smoothly, despite one constant source of worry, namely, the apparent lack of suitable sites for future refuse-tips.

The Council's Compulsory Purchase Order on land at Alveley was confirmed, and this will ease the position in that area. No success has been forthcoming in the search for a site in the North Eastern part of the district, however.

Negotiations are in progress with the National Coal Board and the Kinlet Estate for the use of an old mine shaft at Kinlet, and it is hoped that these will be satisfactorily concluded.

The Council has continued to place increasing emphasis on the treatment of tips for the eradication of insect pests and rodents, and these measures have been rewarded with undoubted success.



## FACTORIES ACTS, 1936 and 1948.

The Council is responsible, by the provisions of Part I of the Factories Act, 1937, for ensuring the adequacy and suitability of sanitary conveniences in all factories in the district, and in the case of factories in which mechanical power is not used, is also responsible for inspecting the premises to ensure that working conditions are satisfactory.

At the end of 1959, there were 27 factories on the register, 25 using mechanical power and 2 non-mechanical.

A total of 27 inspections of factories were made during the year, when two defects were found.

Part VIII of the Act also gives the Council the responsibility for ensuring that premises in which any persons are employed as out-workers are not injurious or dangerous to health. No persons were notified by their employers as out-workers during 1959.

During the year, the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, Section 7 brought all slaughterhouses within the scope of the Factories Acts. A further three factories were, therefore, added to the register in 1959.

### PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION

#### OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

##### PART I OF THE ACT.

- 1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(a) Factories in which Sections 1 - 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	2	2	1	Nil
(b) Factories not included in (a) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	25	25	1	Nil
(c) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total.....	27	27	2	Nil

- 2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more 'cases').

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pro-secutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H. . . Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences(S.7)					
(a) Insufficient.....	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work).....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total.....	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

### PEST CONTROL.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, requires a Local Authority to inspect all premises in their district, and to ensure that any infestations of rats and mice are dealt with by the Authority, or by the occupier in the case of trade and agricultural premises.

The need for this service is demonstrated by the number of requests received for premises to be treated. The service also proves especially useful in controlling the Council's refuse-tips which, as might well be imagined, become centres for rat infestations, if suitable methods of control are not continually applied.

During the hot summer months of the year, infestations of a fly, similar to the house fly but known as *Musca Autumnalis*, proved to be a real nuisance in parts of the district. These flies have the habit of swarming in great numbers, and many people were alarmed to see their houses literally covered over with these flies. Fortunately, in one or two cases, the Council were able to give assistance to these people both in disinfesting the premises and advising on methods of control.

### VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

It will be seen that the work of the Health Inspectors has again been concentrated on housing work, meat inspection, drainage, water supplies and caravan control. These, with the exception of caravan control, may be termed the basic ingredients of environmental health, and much work in this field remains to be done.

Other aspects of the work carried out are also shown in the following list of visits and inspections made during the year.

Houses - Public Health Act	54
Houses - Applications investigated	124
Houses - Housing Acts	176
Housing - Miscellaneous	447
Complaints investigated	107
Caravans	156
Camping sites	218
Water samples	107
Water - general	128

	B/fd.	1,517
Factories		27
Licensed premises		49
Infectious disease cases		14
Swimming baths		7
Rodent control, farms and trade		91
Interview with owners		19
Revisits to properties under notice		71
Bakehouses		5
Catering		35
Food premises		54
Slaughterhouses		657
Butchers shops		54
Refuse tips		69
Ice-cream samples		5
Drainage		143
Houses disinfected		4
Problem families		21
Miscellaneous		61
		<u>2,903</u>

#### CARAVANS AND CARAVAN CONTROL.

At the end of the year there were 62 individually licensed caravans in the district, as compared with 62 in 1958 and 51 in 1957.

In addition to the above there were 24 caravan sites, details of which are as follows:-

Under the Public Health Act, 1936.	No. of Sites.	No. of Caravans on Sites.	Spaces available on Sites.
Licensed.	19	395	51
Unlicensed.	3	24	-
In process of being licensed.	2	-	100
Totals	24	419	151

The above table shows that the number of sites, and caravans on sites, continues to grow, and the caravan popularity shows no decline.

It will be seen that the district now has some 600 licensed caravans, the majority of which are on "holiday and weekend only" sites. Many of these sites which have been licensed in recent years reach a satisfactory standard in both planning and amenities, but there are still those which are not satisfactory to the Council.

Sir Arton Wilson's report on caravans was published during the year, and it is to be hoped that this will result in new legislation which will ensure that all sites may be brought up to the same high standard.

## SECTION D.

HOUSING

Number of inhabited houses (31.3.60)	4,177
Number of Council-owned houses (31.3.60)	472
Number of houses completed in 1959	
(a) Council	24
(b) Private	36
Number of applications for houses at 31.12.59	217
Number of houses under construction at 31.12.59	
(a) Council	Nil
(b) Private	36

The figure for Council-owned houses includes the agricultural hostels at Stottesdon and Morville converted a few years ago into self-contained dwellings.

The 8 houses and 4 bungalows at Hilton were completed during the year, together with 4 bungalows at Worfield 2 at Highley and 6 at Claverley.

These bungalows for old people have proved to be most popular, and will no doubt be a feature of any future Council house building.

36 privately built houses were completed (as compared with 23 in 1958), and a further 36 were in course of construction at 31st December, 1959. The total number of private dwellings built in the post-war years is 207 as compared with 416 built by the Council in the same period.

POST-WAR COUNCIL HOUSE-BUILDING.

Parish	Completed in year ending 31.12.59	Under Construction at 31.12.59	Total Completed Post-War
Alveley	-	-	50
Chelmarsh	-	-	12
Chetton	-	-	6
Claverley	6	-	32
Ditton Priors	-	-	20
Eardington	-	-	16
Eudon George	-	-	6
Highley	2	-	122
Kinlet	-	-	14
Monkhopton	-	-	14
Morville	-	-	18*
Neen Savage	-	-	10
Neenton	-	-	8
Shipton	-	-	6
Stottesdon	-	-	15*
Tasley	-	-	6
Worfield	<u>16</u>	-	<u>61</u>
	<u>24</u>	-	416
Highley	Pre-War Houses		<u>56</u>
	Total of all houses		<u>472</u>

(\* Includes hostels converted into flats).



## FUTURE HOUSING PROGRAMME.

It is anticipated that a further 8 houses and 4 bungalows will be built at Claverley. A further 14 houses at Highley and 40 houses at Alveley are contemplated in the near future. The development at Highley will depend on the completion of the third stage of the sewerage scheme, and building at Alveley will be dependent on the provision of a sewerage scheme in the village. An extension of the No. 2 Hilton Site by a further 12 dwellings is also under consideration.

It is hoped that future Council house building in villages will be preceded by the sewerage of the village, rather than by the provision of small schemes solely for the Council houses.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

### DISCRETIONARY GRANTS -- (HOUSING ACT, 1949).

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Rejected</u>
(a) No of applications	32	30	2
(b) No of dwellings	42	39	3
No of above applications approved in respect of Owner/Occupiers			- 12
Average total cost per dwelling approved			- £918 18s. 7d.
Amount of grant paid stated as 50%			- £323 5s. 9d.

### STANDARD GRANTS (HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959).

No of applications received	- 9
No of dwellings	- 11
Average cost per property	- £136 10s. 0d.

Many people in the district are now enjoying houses which, with the aid of these grants have been provided with modern amenities. Some of these houses would probably have deteriorated, in the course of a few years, to such an extent that action by the Council would have been necessary for their closure or demolition. It is, therefore, pleasing to note that the number of houses being improved in this manner is increasing. Nevertheless, only the fringe of the housing problem is being dealt with, and the Council should continue to encourage more property-owners to take advantage of these grants.

## SLUM CLEARANCE.

The Council continued to take action regarding individually unfit houses, but progress has again been slow, and only 12 houses were dealt with in the year.

Further progress in this important field of the Council's housing work can only be accelerated by an increase in the number of new houses provided for alternative accommodation. As previously stated, such house-building should be preceded by the provision of water supplies and sewerage schemes, but it is considered that a definite slum-clearance policy could now be formulated for areas already having such amenities and space for further building.

In some areas where unfit houses are to be dealt with, it might well be worth while considering again the acquisition of suitable properties in the area and modernising them with the aid of improvement grants, as has been suggested in previous Reports.



## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are three licensed slaughterhouses in the district. Two are used solely by the occupiers, but the third, at Eardington, is used regularly by four butchers, two of whom have their businesses in neighbouring authority's areas.

The slaughterhouses were in regular use throughout the year, and 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered was achieved. Appreciation must be expressed to the butchers without whose co-operation this would have been difficult.

During the year the slaughterhouses were visited by an Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, with a view to ascertaining their suitability under the new slaughterhouse construction regulations.

The Vice-Chairman of the Public Health and Water Committee also met the butchers concerned, who confirmed that they wished to continue with the existing slaughterhouse arrangements. It was expected that proposals for the necessary improvements to the three slaughterhouses would be submitted to the Council early in 1960.

The Council are asked by the Minister to submit their future policy on slaughterhouses in the district by not later than the 1st November, 1960.

The table below gives details of all carcasses inspected and condemned at slaughterhouses in the district during 1959.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	354	11	44	2,043	838	Nil
Number inspected	354	11	44	2,043	838	Nil

#### All diseases except Tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	28	Nil	Nil	12	7	Nil
Percentage of no. inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	7.90	Nil	Nil	0.6	0.8	Nil

#### Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasse condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	47	Nil
Percentage of no. inspected affected	1.4	Nil	Nil	Nil	5.6	Nil

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or or an was condemned	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised, and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The total amount of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption at the slaughterhouses during the year was 16 cwts. 13 lbs.

#### METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Condemned food stuffs are disposed of by deep-burying on the Council's refuse tips. Condemned meat from the slaughterhouses is treated with a green dye and transported to the local Hunt Kennels where it is boiled for the hounds. In the event of a large quantity of meat being condemned, the butcher would be allowed to arrange for its disposal by an approved Knacker.

#### FOOD INSPECTION.

It is an offence under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for a retailer to have in his possession, food which is unfit for human consumption. Most retailers are aware of this, and bring the faulty goods to the notice of the wholesaler, who is generally only too pleased to exchange them. In other cases, the unwholesome food is brought to the notice of the Public Health Inspector, who accepts its voluntary surrender, and issues a surrender certificate as a receipt. The retailer can then claim compensation for his loss.

The following quantities of food stuffs were surrendered in this way during the year:-

Vegetables	-	14 tins
Fruit	-	4 "
Meat	-	9 "
Milk	-	1 "
Dried Fruit	-	5½ lbs.

#### FOOD HYGIENE.

Once premises are known to comply with the structural requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, any further improvements can only be encouraged by the education of persons serving and preparing food. Such work, however, can only be carried out successfully by frequent routine visits to food premises. It is therefore regrettable that this work cannot be given the attention it requires, owing to pressure of other more basic work, in the field of environmental hygiene.

Nevertheless it is gratifying to note that continual improvement is taking place in the food industry in general, especially in the prepacking of foods and the use of refrigeration etc.

All this progress is of little avail, however, unless the public co-operate and patronise only the shopkeepers who endeavour to sell clean food.

## MILK.

The supervision of milk-production is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Much of the milk supplied in this district is retailed by dairymen outside the area, and the Council issues Supplementary Licences to these retailers, and Dealers' Licences to those responsible for its distribution within the district.

The following licences were issued during 1959:-

	<u>Tuberculin Tested</u>	<u>Pasteurised</u>	<u>Sterilised</u>
Supplementary Licences	10	9	5
Dealers' Licences	3	2	8

It is anticipated that during 1960 this district will be included in an area in which only designated milks be sold, and no raw milk other than Tuberculin-tested will be retailed.

Sampling of milk by the Food and Drugs Authority (The County Council) revealed the presence of Brucella Abortus in the milk of one producer in this district, in the course of the year. The milk produced on this farm was sent for heat treatment until further sampling showed the milk to be free from infection.

## ICE-CREAM.

By the end of the year there were 50 premises in the district registered for the sale of ice-cream. There are no manufacturers of ice-cream in the district, the product sold in each case being pre-wrapped.

5 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the laboratory during the year the results of which are detailed below:-

<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
5	Nil	Nil	Nil

The sampling of ice-cream in this district is made more difficult by the fact that samples must reach the laboratory within two hours of being taken. The wide area to be covered, therefore, precludes any other work being carried out by the Inspectors, whilst sampling, and this year it has not been possible to give the time necessary to this aspect of Food and Drugs work. It is hoped that the number of samples can be increased in future years.

## FOOD PREMISES.

### (a) The Type of Food Premises in the area:

1. Butchers' shops	-	12
2. Fried fish shops	-	3
3. Bakehouses	-	4
4. Licensed premises	-	51
5. General provisions stores	-	40
6. Catering premises	-	26
7. School canteens (without kitchen)	-	20
8. School canteens (with kitchen)	-	6

### (b) Premises Registered Under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

1. Manufacturers of preserved foods	-	9
2. Ice-cream dealers	-	50



## SECTION F.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The notifications of cases of infectious diseases received during the year from general practitioners and hospital medical officers were as follows:-

Measles	272
Acute Pneumonia	13
Whooping-cough	7
Scarlet Fever	7
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	3
"          (non-respiratory)	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Erysipelas	1
	<u>306</u>

Measles was prevalent among the child population, particularly during the 2nd and 4th quarters of the year, but otherwise the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases was low during 1959.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Respiratory Tuberculosis	Added to Register, 1959		Removed from Register, 1959			Total No. on Register at 31.12.59.
	New Cases	Transfers In	Cured	Died	Transfers out	
Male	1	1	-	1	2	31
Female	1	3	1	-	2	23
Non- Respiratory Tuberculosis	Added to Register, 1959		Removed from Register, 1959			Total No. on Register at 31.12.59
	New Cases	Transfers In	Cured	Died	Transfers out	
Male	-	-	2	-	-	6
Female	1	-	-	1	-	5

The above table gives details of the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1959, and the alterations made during the year.

At 31.12.59 there were 54 cases of the respiratory disease, and 11 cases of non-respiratory forms, still on the Register. The corresponding figures at 31.12.58 were 54 and 13.

Three new cases in this area were notified during 1959 (2 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory) and there was 1 death due to Respiratory Tuberculosis.

### PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Reference has already been made in Section B to the Immunisation and Vaccination procedures available against various infectious diseases.

Information and advice about vaccination against small-pox and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis are sent to the parents of all infants born in the County, by the County Health Department.





